

Telephone Interviews with Examiner and Supervisor

Upon receipt of the instant Notice, Applicant's representative contacted Examiner Mitchell to discuss the Notice. The Examiner indicated that Applicant had not fully explained how new claims 51 and 52 define over the applied art of record. Applicant's representative contacted Supervisor Swann to assert that the Notice was improper because Applicant had generally alleged in the Rule 1.111 Amendment that new claims 50 and 51 were patentable over the applied documents and that no additional discussion was required. Supervisor Swann responded by requesting that Applicant point out the one or more features in the new claims which are not disclosed or suggested by the applied documents. While Applicant's representative disagreed that any additional discussion of the new claims was required under current USPTO rules and current patent practice, Applicant's representative agreed to do so in response to the Notice. Accordingly, the following represents Applicant's comments as to how new claims 51 and 52 define over the applied art of record.

New Claims are Allowable

Applicant submits that new claims 51 and 52 are also allowable over the applied art of record. Specifically, claims 51 and 52 recite a combination of features similar to those of claim 1 and which are clearly not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. In particular, independent claim 51 recites an anti-slip vibration-damping material permanently connected or fixed to an annular surface of one of the outwardly extending edge and the outwardly extending edge segments, and none of the applied documents discloses or

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suggests at least this feature.

While Applicant acknowledges that Figs. 3 and 4 of RADTKE disclose a hollow cylinder member 4 having an outwardly extending edge 7, that an elastically deformable member 6 having an outer surface is coupled to an inner surface of the hollow cylinder member 4, and that a dampening element 29 is arranged on the edge 7, it is apparent from a fair reading of the disclosure that RADTKE does not disclose, or even suggest, that the element 29 is *permanently connected or fixed to an annular surface* of the edge 7. Applicant notes, in particular, that paragraph [0032] merely indicates that the element 29 “is provided between the flange 7 and the component 27.”

Furthermore, while Applicant acknowledges that Fig. 2 of ROTH disclose a hollow cylinder member 12 having an outwardly extending edge 14 and that an elastically deformable member 16 having an outer surface is coupled to an inner surface of the hollow cylinder member 12, it is apparent from a fair reading of the disclosure that ROTH does not disclose, or even suggest, an anti-slip vibration-dampening material *permanently connected or fixed to an annular surface* of one of the outwardly extending edge and the outwardly extending edge segments. Applicant notes, in particular, that Fig. 2 of ROTH shows no such material attached, or even arranged, on the flange 14.

Additionally, while Applicant acknowledges that Figs. 1 and 2 of BONDAROWICZ disclose a hollow cylinder member 14 having an outwardly extending edge 14 and resilient retaining members 30, it is apparent from a fair reading of the disclosure that BONDAROWICZ does not disclose, or even suggest, one of an anti-slip material and a vibration-dampening material *permanently connected or fixed to an annular surface* of one of

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the outwardly extending edge and the outwardly extending edge segments. Applicant notes, in particular, that Fig. 2 of BONDAROWICZ shows no such material attached, or even arranged, on the flange 14.

Finally, while Applicant acknowledges that Fig. 1 of HEIN shows a device having a groove within which a retaining ring 33 is disposed, it is apparent from a fair reading of the disclosure that HEIN does not disclose, or even suggest, one of an anti-slip material and a vibration-damping material *permanently connected or fixed to an annular surface of one of the outwardly extending edge and the outwardly extending edge segments of a hollow cylinder member*. Applicant notes, in particular, that Fig. 1 of HEIN shows no such hollow cylinder member, much less, a material attached to an annular surface of one of the outwardly extending edge and the outwardly extending edge segments.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of these claims and further request that the above-noted claims be indicated as being allowable.

CONCLUSION

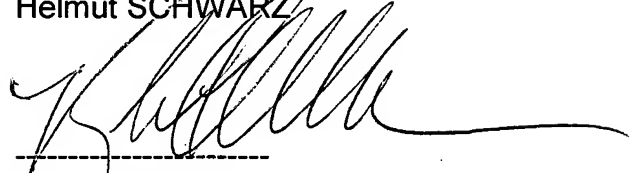
Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund excess payments and charge any additional fee necessary to have this paper entered to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Helmut SCHWARZ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil F. Greenblum', written over a horizontal dashed line.

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